

A Wisdom Homerun

Ephesians 6:1-9

November 1, 2020

The Household Code Continues

Maintaining social order as a character reference for Christianity
Transforming such orders from the inside out with the Christian way

Children

Note that children are directly addressed first
Younger children in mind (**see v. 4**) but implications for adult children
Boys and girls intentionally included
Obey and honor parents (**vs. 1 and 2**)
For this is right (**v. 1**)
For it may go well with you and you may live long (**v.3; cf. Deuteronomy 5:16**)
How wisdom principles work
Contextual exceptions
Key Principle: children, trust God to work for your good through your parents

Parents

Singles out Fathers as the holders of parental authority
Not provoking children to anger?
Find the meaning in the contrast
Nurture them in discipline and instruction of the Lord
Do not treat them in a way that would lead them away from the Lord
Key Principle: parent with truth and grace: **John 1:17**

- Loving them unconditionally, maintaining expectations (response to failure)
- Strong authority is a gift to small children
- Gradual empowerment matching development
- Make your “no’s count

Slaves

Understanding slavery in the Greco-Roman world
Paul addresses the slaves first (the last shall be first?)
Not only work hard when being watched (**v. 6**) but out of sincerity & good will (**vs. 5, 7**)
You are first and foremost Christ’s slave: **v. 6**
Work as if working directly for Christ: **vs. 6,7**
And knowing recompense comes from Him: **v. 8**
Translating this to the work environment today
Key Principle: everything hidden will be revealed: **Luke 8:17**

Masters

Do likewise! Don't rush over this! **v.9**

Treat your slaves as if they were Christ (**cf. Matt. 25:40**)

Live by rule of integrity in hidden places

Paul adds: do not threaten as a form of coercion

Masters are accountable to a Master who shows no partiality!

Translate this to current day bosses: treat employees with dignity and respect

Key Principle: the kingdom does not recognize human pecking orders

And in fact often turns them upside down: **Matt 20:16**
